

SWCS Executive Council Meeting  
April 13, 2006  
Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed, Tombstone

Members in Attendance: Fred Miller, David Matthews, Steve Smarik, Mary Nichols, Cathy McGuire, Paul Buck, Stuart Bengson, Kelly Wolff

- I. Introductions
  - a. Members already introduced themselves on the field trip previous to the business meeting
  - b. Cathy opened with acknowledgement of a full quorum
  
- II. Officers Elected and Confirmed:
  - a. Cathy as President
  - b. Mary as webmaster
  - c. Kris Graham-Chavez as Treasurer (not present, continued position)
  - d. Fred as Membership Committee
  - e. Jeff Silvertooth as Education Committee (not present, continued position)
  - f. Steve as Committee Chair
  - g. Kelly as Secretary
  
- III. Smithsonian Information
  - a. Smithsonian Soil Exhibit drive: several thousand dollars (\$15,570) raised and letter of appreciation received (Agronomic Science Foundation) (letter to be placed on the website). Collected \$1000 of chapter donations, this will allow AZ SWCS Chapter name to be placed on the state soil monolith. See the website: [www.smithsonian.org](http://www.smithsonian.org) for display and further information on the exhibit to open in 2008.
  - b. Note: Smithsonian web address should be posted on website.
  
- IV. Upcoming Conference in Keystone
  - a. Delegate meeting requires attendance from each state chapter to give feedback on direction of society and voting.
    - i. Motion for Cathy to be delegate, accepted. Cathy to send e-mail confirmation to contact for delegate meeting.
    - ii. Paul and Fred will also be in attendance at the conference.
  
- V. Cathy to update coordination efforts with David McKay/2008 Conference
  - a. Shift in ethic issue due to budgets within NRCS, wants society to be supported on their own; NRCS is being evaluated by OPM due to Farm Bill monies. If SWSC receives monies it will come out national budgets not individual states, which means less NRCS support for the Chapter in 2008. McKay is still very supportive of SWCS and will support the chapter in other ways. Cathy will call into Sue Ann to find further direction on funding. Topic that will be supported by NRCS would include

mitigation, ecological site descriptions, co-op conservation, watershed planning, urbanization, coordination with other agencies. Our Chapter needs to pick a theme.

- b. Ideas: water and people, Anasazi Indians to present (state land changes),
- c. Steve: Call for proposals – two categories that stay static – posters, presentation, symposium – we need to propose symposia where we put it together. Nationally they will put that together. Ideas for topics can be relayed to national team, takes major titles and sets them. It is our responsibility to find speakers. Logo and slogan (theme does not drive program) we can set. Proposals for keynote speakers, etc. can be presented by chapters.
- d. Discussion of time restraints of NRCS folks and need for strategy for symposia proposal. All accepted needs. People and water would be good theme for Regional. Types of speakers could include watershed groups, Altar valley, gila group, San Pedro group, Verde valley, Diablo Trust, Oracle Group, Malapai group, Associations of Governments, etc.
- e. What are needs – one half day on watershed issues and one half day on partnerships for resolutions.
- f. State con in Colorado to be contacted (Cathy) for hints and what they are doing.
- g. Need to get our MOU and outline specifically we will do. Steve will help write grants. Kelly will help with MOU and grant proposals. Student chapters can help. Venue has been preselected and contracted.
- h. Steve: Typically relied on agencies for equipment, etc.
- i. Discussion followed re: individual agency responsibility for equipment. Past, set up system with moderator and av coordinator to deal with equipment storage.

VI. Stuart with State Soil update:

- a. Soil not officially gone through legislature – Rusty Bowers lobbyist for sand and gravel; gave info and background on legislative requirements, and has not responded, as it is on the backburner. Legislative approach may not be the way to go – perfect timing for Governor to present our State Soil with the states involvement in hosting the 2008 conference and Smithsonian soil exhibit opening (it would be simple for the governor to proclaim state soil in the preamble to the conference). She could proclaim it at the conference. As she should vs. a keynote or other speaker. Smithsonian exhibit information packet review; several states do not have legislative supported soil, not just Arizona.

VII. Other Ideas/Thoughts

- a. Have medicine man come in for opening ceremony (blessing, drums, etc.) – Paul to get contacts from San Carlos Tribe or other. Older to present theme, designate Casa Grande soil as the state soil.
- b. Family night at Desert museum – could do 400 people for food with rotation in and date. Would require bussing people out and may not be a

good place. Old Tucson may have banquet hall to accommodate that number of people. U of A natural history/arboretum may provide tours; student union should have banquet room.

- i. Other ideas for family night: mariachi band, bbq in park, entertainment at park, catered dinner, check with beef council and farm bureau for locally grown and raised food.
  - ii. Technical tours, Walnut Gulch, San Pedro, and Sonoita winery tour.
  - iii. Note: Contact chamber of commerce for ideas for family night and conference – Mary
- c. Need logo – Mary to inquire about design with husbands design folks, Kelly to inquire with boyfriends sign design folks for ideas on logo and potential signs to be made.
  - d. Awareness of Ben Avery scholarship for junior college students
  - e. Rebecca Bently will lead the organizing of the silent auction for conference
  - f. Treasurers report – to me to be noted in minutes. Checking account \$1,500, savings \$1,000. \$25,000 for scholarship fund in dowd.
  - g. Our Chapter website: [Azswcs.org/newweb](http://Azswcs.org/newweb)

#### VIII. Tasks –

- a. Paul to get tribal contacts and participate in this years conference
- b. Mary: to contact chamber of commerce, inquire about design for logo
  - i. Mary and Cathy to go to Star Pass Marriot about conference
- c. Cathy: to attend conference and delegate session
  - i. E-mail Kelly Ben Avery information
  - ii. write Ankeny with new board members and appointed delegate to Keystone
  - iii. Cathy to call Dave McKay for ideas and inquire about governor address for conference
- d. Steve to write grant proposals
- e. Kelly: to work on MOU with Cathy
  - i. help Steve on some grant proposals
  - ii. check contact at ASU East for ERSA new name, etc. Dr. Green, see if they revised their bylaws, and contacts, send Ben Avery scholarship draft minutes, send to Cathy for circulation and approval
- f. Fred to send out Ben Avery info to U of A students

#### IX. Potential Next Meeting:

- a. August 9<sup>th</sup>, at Marriot star hotel in Tucson. Cathy and Mary to find out details. 10am – 1pm business meeting and tour of facilities, time may change dependant on activities.

Motion to adjourn meeting  
Meeting adjourned 2:11pm